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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please see the complete listing of claims below. Claims 6, 8 and 16 have been corrected to properly delineate the currently amended claims. Claim 6 has been further amended to incorporate the limitations of the preamble into the body of the claim in accordance with the examiner's suggestion. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

We claim:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for alerting security personnel and bystanders that a person is missing using a computer network including a plurality of reporting stations each including a display and a powerhorn, and a plurality of registration stations each including a camera and fingerprint scanner, and a network server in wireless communication with all of said reporting stations and registration stations, comprising the steps of:

collecting registration information from a person at one of said registration stations, said collecting further comprising the substeps of,

photographing one or more images of a person using said camera;

obtaining a fingerprint of said person from said fingerprint scanner;

converting said fingerprint to a digital record;

recording said images and digital fingerprint record electronically;

collecting and recording identifying information related to said person and a guardian or responsible person;

transferring said identifying information and said recorded images to a portable storage medium;

transferring said recorded images and identifying information to said system server;

receiving notification that said person is missing;

upon receipt of said lost person notification, broadcasting said images and digital fingerprint to all of said plurality of reporting stations, displaying said images to the general public on the display of all said reporting stations whilst simultaneously announcing an alert on the powerhorn in hope that said public will locate and return the lost person to said guardian or responsible person; and

providing said fingerprint to proper authorities if said lost person is not returned.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method for alerting security personnel and bystanders that a person is missing of claim 1, further comprising the step of printing a label at the registration station bearing the identifying information related to said person and attaching said label to said portable storage medium.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Originally Presented) The method for alerting security personnel and bystanders that a person is missing of claim 1, further comprising the step of erasing the data from the portable storage media.

6. (Currently Amended) A lost person notification system for alerting security personnel and bystanders that a person is missing comprising:

a plurality of reporting stations each including a computer, display and powerhorn;

a plurality of registration stations each including a computer, cameras for photographing and recording one or more images of a person, personal identification forms, and portable storage medium, and

data handler software resident on system server;

wherein said display and powerhorn are immediately and instantaneously activated upon notification of alert by reading of the portable storage medium.

7. (Previously Presented) The lost person notification system of claim 6 wherein said data handler software comprises:

a data collection module;
data compression software
a database; and
a data transfer module.

8. (Currently Amended) The lost person notification system of claim 7 wherein said data compression software compresses a fingerprint scan and full-body photograph images into smaller records than the face photograph image.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Originally Presented) The lost person notification system of claim 6 further comprising a public address amplifier.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Originally Presented) The lost person notification system of claim 6 further comprising a smart card reader.

14. (Originally Presented) The lost person notification system of claim 6 wherein said portable storage medium is a conventional smart card and associated smart card reader.

15. (Originally Presented) The lost person notification system of claim 6 wherein said portable storage medium is a flash memory.

16. (Currently Amended) The lost person notification system of claim 6 wherein said computers at said registration stations further utilize a label printer.

17. (Originally Presented) The lost person notification system of claim 6 wherein said network protocol is a standard wireless protocol.

18. (Originally Presented) The lost person notification system of claim 6 further comprising a wireless access point (WAP) device.